Plan. The total live storage capacity of the existing reservoirs in the country is about 177 BCM. With the completion of ongoing projects, the live storage capacity is likely to further increase by about 75 BCM. Further, projects having additional live storage capacity of about 132 BCM are under formulation/consideration.

श्री लाजपत राय: चेयरमैन सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में बताया है कि इस वर्ष 103 और 240 मेजर मीडिया प्रोजेक्ट्स कम्पलीट हो जाएंगे। पहले यह बताया था कि इस साल में 67 मेजर और 130 मीडियम प्रोजेक्ट्स कम्पलीट होंगे। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ये जो 36 मेजर और 110 मीडियम प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, ये कब से चले आ रहे हैं और कब तक कम्पलीट हो जाएंगे?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the question is whether the Government have any plan to construct large and small water reservoirs in the Tenth Five Year Plan. I have given the information that in the Tenth Five Year Plan, 67 major and 130 medium projects are proposed to be taken up.

*235. *[The questioner (Shri Rajkumar Dhoot) was absent. For answer vide page 38-39.]*

World Bank assistance for water supply schemes in Maharashtra

*236. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has provided Rs. 1600 crore financial aid for implementation of pending water supply schemes of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the financial aid to be spent for Vidarbha region; and

(c) the details of the pending schemes in the State in which Government have participation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statment

(a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a project for second Maharashtra rural water supply and environmental Sanitation for augmenting drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural areas in the 26 districts of Maharashtra including 10 districts of Vidarbha region at an estimated cost of US$ 268.65 million with World Bank assistance has been finalized recently. In this connection negotiation has been concluded between Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and World Bank (IDA) on 8.07.2003. This project is to be implemented in a demand driven manner following participatory approach. Some of the on going schemes which conform to the project principles may be funded under the project. The list of pending schemes in the State is not available with Government of India. However, out of existing pending schemes, those conforming to the project principles may be considered for funding under the project.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Sir, with your due permission, I want to bring to your notice the negative attitude of the Government. If you go through my question from 'a' to 'c', the content of the reply is positive. But, at the first instance, the reply is "No, Sir". This indicates a negative attitude of the Government towards the Parliament question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you say about your negative attitude?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the question is whether the World Bank has provided Rs. 1600 crore financial aid for the implementation of pending water supply schemes in Maharashtra. Sir, the hon. Member knows that the World Bank funding is generally arranged by the State Government concerned. Whatever they propose to the World Bank, certainly our Finance Ministry approves that. But, it originates from the State Government conerned. That is why I have stated "No, Sir".

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: ...(*Interruptions*)... The total reply is positive, but, at the first instance, the reply is negative. Anyhow, my supplementary question is whether it is a fact that a list of schemes is pending with the Government of India, prior to the date when it was finalised, that is, 8.7.2003. Is it a fact that these schemes are pending with the Government of India?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, these schemes are not pending with us. The amount mentioned is not correct.

*237. *[The questioner (Shri S.M. Laljan Basha) was absent. For answer vide pages 39-40.]*

*238. *[The questioner (Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya) was absent. For answer vide page 40.]*

Wealth Tax and Income Tax dues

*239. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount aggregating several thousand crores of rupees is being shown as outstanding demand in the records of Government on account of Wealth Tax/Income Tax etc.;

(b) whether Wealth Tax/Income Tax dues are outstanding because of huge litigation and cases pending at various levels such as CIT Appeals, Income Tax, High Courts and Supreme Court; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of expediting the settlement of such cases and if so, how?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced the setting up of more Benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, together with a 'National Tax Tribunal' for expeditious disposal of the cases under litigation. Moreover, the Commissioners (Appeal) have been directed to dispose off pending appeals quickly, particularly the High Demand Appeals.

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: सर, आपकी कृपा हुई तो क्वेश्चन आ गया। ...(व्यवधान)... Sir, thousands of crores of rupees are outstanding in the Government books on account of tax arrears, recovery, etc. Sir, in the year 2001, Rs. 39,631 crore were shown as tax due. The CAG in its report of 2003 has stated that 22 per cent of this amount is more than five years old. Almost